

September 4, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

Dean Acheson asked us some time ago whether we would object to the publication of a paper of his on Berlin. I put it in the week end folder once or twice, but I have never checked to learn your opinion. Now he is back from vacation and we owe him an answer.

I had some doubts about this article early in the summer, but in the current atmosphere I think it would be quite helpful. The one question I would have is on pages 6 and 7, where he talks of the problems of sovereignty for the East German regime and of permanent division in Germany. It is at least possible that we may give some de facto acceptance on both these points, and perhaps one of our leading advisers ought not to hint that any such concession would offer Khrushchev a "glittering prize."

In one sense this is a routine clearance question, but in another it goes quite near the heart of the problem of Berlin, and perhaps you may want to talk to Acheson about it yourself.

McG. B.

